

50. (Currently amended) An article at least partially coated comprising:

at least one surface at least partially coated with a superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating ~~that absorbs water when it is wetted and desorbs water when it is dried, the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating including, said coating comprising:~~

~~a dried and cured at least one~~ water-soluble superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution, which cures when said precursor is applied to the at least one surface and is exposed to one or more temperatures within a range of temperatures that permit the superabsorbent polymer coating formed therefrom to absorb water when it is wetted and to desorb water when it is dried;

a viscosity-modifying agent;

a lubricant; and

a film forming binder in aqueous solution, said film forming binder selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, latex and mixtures thereof.

51. Cancelled.

52. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of tapes, mats, fabrics, rovings, fibrous strands, laminates, sheets, rods and cables.

53. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of molded articles, woven fabrics, scrims, wood and paper products, and construction materials.

54. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said article comprises a fibrous reinforcing material.

55. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 54 wherein said fibrous reinforcing material is selected from the group of reinforcing fibers consisting of glass fibers, polymer fibers, carbon fibers, natural fibers, and blends thereof.

56. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 55 wherein said reinforcing fibers comprise polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, nylon fibers, Kevlar fibers, polyester fibers, polyethylene fibers, polypropylene fibers, and combinations thereof.

57. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 56 wherein said polymer fibers comprise aramid fibers.

58. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating is corrosion resistant.

59. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating is water resistant.

60. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating absorbs water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

61. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

62. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 50 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating to about 340 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

63. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 33 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating to about 66 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

64. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 63 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating has a swell rate of about 126 grams of water per gram of dry coating and about 50 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

65. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group of viscosity-modifying agents consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof.

66. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said viscosity-modifying agent is an acrylamide polymer.

67. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating further comprising a wetting agent.

68. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said water-soluble superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor is selected from the group of anionic salt forms of the polymer precursor consisting of anionic alkali salt polymer precursors and alkali metal salt polymer precursors.

69. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 50 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating covers an entire surface of the article.

REMARKS

To further prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended herein claim 50. In addition, Applicants have cancelled herein claims 19-49 and claim 51. Claims 50 and 52-69 are pending with claim 50 being in independent form.

Patentability of Claims 50 and 52-69

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited prior art references, nor the prior art of record, teach or suggest an article at least partially coated comprising at least one surface partially coated with a superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer coating comprising at least one superabsorbent water-soluble polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution, a viscosity-modifying agent, a lubricant and a film forming binder, as recited in claim 50. The invention of claim 50 is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art or the prior art of record and, therefore, is patentably distinguishable therefrom.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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